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		Application Number	09/737,179				
TRANSMITTAL	_	Filing Date	December 13, 2000				
FORM		First Named Inventor	KHAN, TAHIR SADIK				
		Group Art Unit	1743				
(to be used for all correspondence after in	itial filing)	Examiner Name	ALEXANDER, LYLE				
Total Number of Pages in This Submiss	on 7	Attorney Docket Number	LIFE-016				
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		Application Number	09/737,179 Y	
	AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111 Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Confirmation Number	8410 No.	71
		Filing Date	December 13, 2000	200 - [
		First Named Inventor	Tahir Sadik Khan	<i>₩</i>
		Examiner	Alexander, Lyle	
		Group Art	1743	
		Attorney Docket No.	LIFE016	

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 26, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before November 26, 2002. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please cancel Claims 8, 12, 15, 17, 22 and 28 in their entirety without disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. A method of manufacturing a plurality of reagent test strips, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a test strip precursor comprising an elongated support material having a first planar surface and a stripe of reagent material positioned along a central axis thereof; and
- (b) cutting said test strip precursor into a plurality of reagent test strips according to an inter-digitating pattern wherein each of said strips produced includes a sample region and a handling region, where said reagent material is located in said sample region.
- 2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said test strip precursor is a continuous tape.